

Application Serial No. 09/978,131  
Amendment dated: March 22, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated March 8, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) The method of manufacturing thin-walled permeable membrane tubing comprising the steps of: inserting water permeable material into a blown film extruder; forcing said material through concentric extruding heads in said extruder; blowing air through the center of said extruding head to create a thin-walled tube in the form of a flat band, converting said thin-walled tube to the hydrogen ion form; drying said converted flat band; bathing said flat band in methanol to swell said flat band; and manipulating said swelled band into a tubular shape.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said material is in pelletized form when it is fed into said blown film extruder.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of: inserting said tubular material an outer protective mesh; affixing end fittings to said tubular material by, at either end of said tubular material; exposing a portion of said tubular material by pushing back said outer protective mesh; soaking said portion

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in water to expand said portion; placing an end fitting inside said expanded portion; shrinking said expanded portion over said end fitting; and sealing said portion to said fitting.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the inside diameter of said outer mesh is larger than the outside diameter of the tubing.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said expanded portion is sealed to said fitting by placing a plastic, adhesive-lined, heat shrinkable tube the outside of the tubing and end fitting assembly; and heat shrinking the tube over said end fitting assembly.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further including the steps of: placing an outer protective mesh over said tubing; placing adhesive-lined heat shrink material over said outer mesh; and heat shrinking said heat shrink material over said outer protective mesh.